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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/712,585	11/13/2003	Mircea Rusu	15636.13	8992

22913 7590 08/06/2007
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EXAMINER

BOKHARI, SYED M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2609

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/06/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/712,585

Applicant(s)

RUSU, MIRCEA

Examiner

Syed Bokhari

Art Unit

2609

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16, 18 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 17 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 02/28/2006 and 03/01/2004.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 1-14 and 20 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 because of the following informalities:

In claim 1 line 8, the occurrence of "a communication interface" seems to refer above to "a communication interface" previously cited in line 5 of the same claim, if it is true, it is suggested to change "a communication interface" to --the communication interface--.

In claim 20 line 2, the occurrence of "a logical address of 0" should be change to --the logical address of 0--.

Claims 2-14 are objected to because it is dependent on claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-16 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lys (US 2002/0043938 A1).

For claim 1, Lys discloses a system for assigning addresses to components in a networked system, the system comprising (see paragraph 0008 line 1-4 on page 1 in Summary of the Invention); a communication network (see paragraph 0008 line 4-7 on page 1 in Summary of the Invention); a plurality of functional components (see paragraph 0017 line 1-2 on page 1 in Summary of the Invention); at least some of the functional components including a communication interface for coupling the functional components to the communication network for receiving control signals over the communication network (see paragraph 0017 line 2-6 on page 1 in Summary of the Invention); a control unit, the control unit including (see Abstract lines 3-4); a communication interface for coupling the control unit to the communication network (see Abstract lines 4-6); for transmitting control signals over the communication network to the functional components (see paragraph 0029 lines 1-7 on page 3 in Detailed

Description of the Preferred Embodiments); a component for assigning logical addresses for each of the functional components (see paragraph 0010 line 7-10 on page 1 in Summary of the Invention) and the control signals including signals for selectively communicating with the functional components according to the logical addresses (see paragraph 0021 line 6-11 on page 2 in Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments).

For claim 2, Lys discloses wherein the communication interface comprises an address component for recognizing control signals intended for one or more the functional components according to the logical addresses associated with the functional components (see paragraph 0022 lines 5-25 on page 2 in Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments).

For claim 3, Lys discloses wherein the control unit comprises a component for generating a logical address for each of the functional components (see paragraph 0009 lines 2-5 on page 1 in Summary of the Invention) and the logical address being derived from an identifier associated with each of the functional components (see paragraph 0009 lines 5-8 on page 1 in Summary of the Invention).

For claim 4, Lys discloses wherein the identifier comprises a positional reference based on the physical location of the associated functional component (see paragraph 0027 lines 4-18 on page 3 in Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments).

For claim 5, Lys discloses wherein the identifier comprises a serial number associated with each of the functional components (see paragraph 0019 lines 3-10 on page 2 in Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments).

For claim 6, Lys discloses wherein the control signals further include signals for selectively controlling the operational characteristics of the functional components (see paragraph 0032 lines 1-11 on page 3 in Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments).

For claim 7, Lys discloses wherein at least some of the functional components include a control component, the control component being responsive to control signals for controlling the operational characteristics of the functional components (see paragraph 0028 lines 1-9 on page 3 in Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments).

For claim 8, Lys discloses wherein the functional components further include a switch for selectively directing the command signals from the control unit to the functional components (see paragraph 0016 line 5-8 on page 1 in Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments).

For claim 9, Lys discloses wherein the switch directs the command signals to one or more the functional components according to the logical addresses associated with the functional components (see paragraph 0015 lines 1-66 on page 1 in Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments).

For claims 10-11 and 13-14, Lys teaches:

- Wherein at least some of the functional components are speakers as recited in claim 10.
- Wherein at least some of the functional components are sound masking units as recited in claim 11.
- Wherein at least some of the functional components comprise alarm units as recited in claim 13.
- Wherein at least some of the functional components comprise HVAC units as recited in claim 14.

(see paragraph 0036 line 1-7 on page 3 in Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments).

For claim 12, Lys discloses wherein at least some of the functional components comprise lighting units (see paragraph 0014 lines 1-3 in Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments).

For claim 15, Lys discloses a method for assigning addresses to components in a networked system having a plurality of components, each component having an associated identifier, the method comprising the steps of: (see paragraph 0017 line 2-6 on page 1 in Summary of the Invention); selecting a component having a predetermined characteristic (see paragraph 0032 lines 1-11 on page 3 in Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments); generating a logical address for the component, the logical address being derived from the identifier

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associated with the component components (see paragraph 0017 line 2-8 on page 1 in Summary of the Invention) and assigning the logical address to the component (see paragraph 0010 line 7-10 on page 1 in Summary of the Invention).

For claim 16, Lys discloses further comprising the step of storing the logical address in memory, wherein the logical address is stored in association with the identifier (see paragraph 0021 lines 6-15 on page 2 in Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments).

For claim 18, Lys discloses wherein the identifier comprises a positional reference based on the physical location of the associated functional component (see paragraph 0027 lines 4-18 on page 3 in Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments).

For claim 19, Lys discloses wherein the identifier comprises a serial number associated with each of the functional components (see paragraph 0019 lines 3-10 on page 2 in Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 17 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

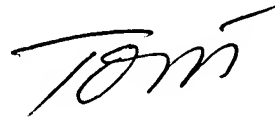
6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US 5,960,326 (Kido), US 5,553,245 (Su et al.), US 4,918,690 (Markkula Jr. et al.) and US 5,675,830 (Satula).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Syed Bokhari whose telephone number is (571) 270-3115. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dang Ton can be reached on (571) 272-3171. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



DANG T. TON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER